

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2010

**Present: Alexis Devine, Betty Pleacher, Bob Cooper, Carmen Ferguson, Courtney Murphy, Cynthia Farrell, Deborah Anthes, Diane Cook, Dorothy Mattiello, Evaristo Amaral, Joseph DiPina, Joseph W. Oakes, Jr., Kathleen Grygiel, James White, Paul Harden, Paul Ouellette, Peter Koch, Philip Stone, Ray Pingitore, Robin Smith, Steve Kitchin, Steve Wilson, Susan O'Donnell, Vanessa Cooley, Victoria Gailliard-Garrick,
and Wendy Kagan**

Staff and guests present: Christine Grieco, Jen Buck, Mavis McGetrick, Shirley Winslow, Gail DuPont, Brian Gambardella, Jo-Anne Thibedeau, Dan Brown, Kathy Tobin-Henry, Pam Blais, Sherri Carello, Cristin Grenier and Thomas J. Fay

Absent: Allen Durand, Andrew Tyska, Darrell Waldron, Fred Ricci, Joseph DeSantis, Michael Cassidy, Nancy Roderick, Patricia Talin, Raymond Filippone, Scott Seaback, and Sue Chomka

Chair Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Mr. Kitchin asked everyone to review the minutes from the previous meeting.

VOTE: Mr. Ouellette motioned to accept the amended minutes with the notation of the absence of Victoria Gailliard-Garrick and Robin Smith. Seconded by Betty Pleacher. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's report:

Mr. Kitchin reported on the NAWB conference in Washington, DC, March 6th – March 9th, 2010. Mr. Kitchin along with Ms. Grieco, Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Harden attended the conference. Mr. Kitchin made reference to a youth program which he attended, Extreme Entrepreneur Tour “Young people connecting with young people”. Their catch phrase “Train and Pray”. Ms. Grieco will speak with Carlos Ribeiro and the Youth Council about this program.

While at the NAWB conference Mr. Kitchin, Ms. Grieco, Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Harden had to opportunity to meet with Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse and Representative's Langevin's associate.

Ms. Grieco and Mr. Kitchin will be attending the NAWDP Conference, in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 2nd – May 5th, 2010.

Mr. Kitchin asked Ms. Grieco to investigate what options Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island have to assist businesses, non profit, and youth groups in the flooded areas.

Mr. Kitchin attended an Economic Summit at CCRI with Congressman

Langevin.

Ms. Grieco and Mr. Kitchin took a tour of the new Providence Career and Technical Academy.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Grieco reviewed the ARRA TANF Subsidized Employment/Jobs Now RI Plan for Greater Rhode Island Workforce Investment Area for the period of April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010. The plan gives a general overview of how employers and employees will be recruited, targeted types of occupational placements and monitoring. The Department of Human Services submitted an application to the Federal Government to receive TANF Emergency Contingency Funds.

The application has not been approved yet therefore the plan does not have a specific dollar amount. If the application gets approved and WPGRI receives a specific allocation, a new plan will be created to include a budget and service levels.

Ms. Grieco is asking for a vote on the plan only. After much discussion, the vote from the Executive Committee was asked to be read. It was recommended this plan subject to issuance of the allocations the Board retains the right to subsequent oversight.

An overview of the TANF Subsidized Employment Program is given by Ms. Cook, Ms. Buck and Ms. Grieco. These funds will provide subsidized employment to individuals currently receiving TANF assistance (SNAP, cash assistance, medical assistance) and to

families who are at or below 225% of poverty. Employers providing the subsidized employment opportunities will be reimbursed 100% of the wages paid to the employee. It is expected that the average wage will be around \$15.00 per hour. It is explained that positions created cannot be positions in which is in layoff. Permanent positions are preferred but seasonal positions will be allowable. Many program and policy questions are still be worked through by DHS, DLT and the LWIBS. The board will be updated as more information becomes available.

Mr. Cooper recused himself on the matter of ARRA TANF Plan.

Ms. Farrell recused herself on the matter of ARRA TANF Plan.

Ms. Devine recused herself on the matter of ARRA TANF Plan.

Ms. O'Donnell recused herself on the matter of the AARA TANF Plan.

Ms. Mattiello recused herself on the matter of the ARRA TANF Plan.

VOTE: Ms. Cooley motioned to move forward with the intent of ARRA TANF Subsidized Employment Plan for Greater Rhode Island Workforce Area for the period of April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010 as stated. The Executive Committee has the right to approve the concept to move forward and report back to the Board of Directors. Seconded by Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Pingitore and Mr. Wilson. The motion passed unanimously. (Subject to recusals noted above)

Committee Reports:

Board Development: Mr. Ouellette reports, there was no March, 2010 meeting. Items to be discussed at the next meeting (4/23/10) will be the Vice Chair position. Mr. Stone will forgo his presentation until the September 14, 2010 meeting.

Strategic Development: Mr. Harden reports there was no March, 2010 meeting.

Youth Council: Ms. Farrell reports there is \$683,000.00 left over from the summer PY09 ARRA-WIA funding. The plan is to utilize these dollars to fund programs at some of the vocational technical Schools targeting youth ages 14 and 15. If the Youth Council should receive PY10 WIA summer dollars these additional dollars would be used to replicate last year's 2009 summer program.

Chair Kitchen recused himself from this portion of the meeting by turning the gavel over to Vice Chair Ouellette.

Ms. Farrell outlined the following recommendations made by the Youth Council for funding of summer programs. These recommendations were presented to the Executive Committee and approved for recommendation to the full Board of Directors. (Ms. Winslow read the text of the votes taken by the Executive Committee.)

Vote #1: Ms. Farrell motioned to approve funding up to \$700,000.00 to operate a summer Voc Tech program for 14-15 year old youths. Ms. Talin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Subject to recusal(s) noted above)

Vote #2: Ms. Farrell motioned to fund any new summer program funds (up to 3 million) to replicate last year's 2009 summer program. Mr. DiPina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Subject to recusal(s) noted above)

Mr. Fay inquired how we can issue an RFP contingent on funds to be received. How can we read and rate for programs offered and go forward without funding?

Ms Farrell explained that the RFP was issued with the clear understanding to vendors that the programs are contingent upon funding. To wait for the decision on funding for programs that start in June, would not allow enough time for the RFP process. Once the funding decision is made, the proposals will be funded, based on available funds and according to their scores.

VOTE: Ms. Cooley clarified that the Youth Council had originally recommended that WPGRI fund the traditional summer programs at the same level as last year at the 1.5 million dollar level. If additional funds are received to move forward with the intent to utilize the dollars for the Voc Tech schools. Ms. Cooley motioned that the vote

taken earlier be revised to align with the original recommendation made by the Youth Council.

Mr. Cooper states that in order to accomplish this change, we need to reconsider Vote #2.

VOTE: Mr. Cooper motioned Vote #2 be rescinded. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Ms. Farrell offered a revised motion as follows: Any new summer program funds (up to 3 million) will be used to replicate last year's 2009 summer program and to expand the vocational program. Seconded by Mr. Wilson. The motion carried unanimously. (Subject to recusal(s) noted above)

Mr. Koch asked how WPGRI would award funds if more than 3 million were to be awarded for summer programs.

**VOTE: Ms. Pleacher motioned if funds in excess of 3 million are received, they need to be brought to the Youth Council. Seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.
(Subject to recusal(s) noted above)**

Vice Chair Mr. Ouellette returned the gavel back to Chair Mr. Kitchen.

Quality Assurance Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: Mr. DiPina noted the Finance Committee met on April 1, 2010. Mr. Kitchin, Mr. Harden and Mr. DiPina reviewed the two RFP proposals for the new auditing firm as our current contract expires on 6-20-10. The 2 firms are KLR and Restivo Monacelli, LLP. After carefully reviewing the RFPs the recommendation was to hire KLR firm for at least one year. The committee felt KLR was best equipped to continue auditing WPGRI.

VOTE: Mr. DiPina motioned to accept the recommendation that KLR be retained for the next fiscal year. Seconded by Mr. Harden. Motion carried unanimously.

WPGRI Budget: Mr. Gambardella stated \$195,000.00 was moved for WIA Recovery Youth Program. We will be obligating \$683,000.00 for new summer contracts. JDF and ISDI will have no more funding.

WPGRI Service Levels: Ms. Grieco stated the service levels report will be presented at the next Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Stone – US Chamber of Commerce will postpone his presentation until the September, 2010 Board meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business: There was no new business to come before the Board.

VOTE: Mr. Ouellette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 A.M. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Respectfully submitted
Shirley Winslow